





# Brittains<sup>8</sup> Glory:

OR, THE  
HISTORY  
Of the LIFE and DEATH of  
K. ARTHUR,  
And the Adventures of the  
KNIGHTS of the Round Table.

GIVING

A Relation of their Heroick Explous and Victories in many Lands, but especially in the *Holy-Land* against the *Turky* and *Sara-zens*: The Combates with Gyants, and Monsters, and fearful wild Beasts: Encounters with *Pyrates* at Sea: His building Pallaces: Love to Ladies, and the many deliverances wrought by him: With other wonderful Atchievements: Pleasant and delightful; altogether worthy the perusal of the ingenious Reader.



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TO THE  
**R E A D E R :**

COURTEOUS READER,



Bring the Revolutions of this Kingdom, such have been the Valourous Exploits of the Princes, and other Renowned Warriors, Natives not only in this our Land and neighbouring Countries, but throughout the known world, that all Nations have stood amazed, and trembled at their Proffess. And amongst others, we'll may the famous ARTHUR that Renowned Britiish King take place, though (to lessen the Credit of his great Exploits) some envious Aliens have endeavour'd to prove there was never such a man; but since it is evident by Chronologers of the most Antiquity and Integrity, that he was the Son of Vier Pendragon of the Antient Britiish Royal Blood.

I shall not use more Arguments to manifest it to the world, but proceed to the Matter of History, as I find it layed down for the Instruction of future Ages: And remain,

Reader,

Yours to serve you,



# BRITTAINS GLORY:

O R,

The HISTORY of the Life and Death of King *Arthur*,  
and the Adventures of the Knights of the R O U N D T A B L E.

## CH A P. I.

Of the Parentage of King *Arthur*; and how he came to the Crown  
after his Fathers death.

**T**HE Saxons, after the departure of the Romans, having (under the title of friendship) seized upon many strong places in this Kingdom, the native Britains, after having tryed their fortunes in many dreadful Battels, were obliged to retire into Wales and Cornwall; yet retaining many places of considerable strength; and from thence by frequent excursions greatly anoyed the Enemy; not forgetting their ancient Valour, and the former Glory of this Isle, amongst which was King Vter Pendragon, lineally descended from the British Kings, who in the Year Anno 500. began to Reign over the Britains that possessed the Mountainous Country with great success, giving the Saxons many defeats, and gaining greatly upon them; till at last falling in love with a fair Lady named Igrayin, wife to Alfridus Duke of Cornwall, he so doted on her Beauty, that not finding her to be won by perswasion to yield her chastity to his disposal, he plotted with Merlin a famous Necromancer of that age, to bring his designs about by policy. This Necromancer undertaking the matter, the better to ease his Princes labburing thoughts, with Spells, and by Magick Enchantment so wrought, that either deluding the Ladies sight, or transforming the King into the shape of her Lord, she received him as such, and suffered him in the absence of Alfridus to enjoy her a whole night, on whom he got our famous Arthur: For her Lord being in War against the West-Saxons, was slain ere his return, of which the King hearing, though greatly grieved at the loss of so renowned a Subject, yet as much rejoiced that fate gave him opportunity to pro-

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cure the love of the fair Dutchess in an honourable way, which he prosecuting after the days of mourning were over, so dealt with her by fair words and rich presents, that being now at liberty, she was contented to be his Wife, and was married to him by the Bishop of Carlisle with great pomp and splendour; all the Lords and Nobles subject to his Scepter; together with their Ladies adorning their Nuptials, and assisting at the Ceremony: And so great was the joy, that eating, Turnament, and all manner of disports to recreate the senses, were held for twenty daies: yet the Queen was troubled to find the fruits of her womb increase so fast, as fearing to be suspected of Adultery, for well she knew she had been deceived, when she computed the time of Alfridus death with the time she supposed him in her embraces: but the King, to put her out of doubt, and to prevent melancholly thoughts, in loving-wise unrevealed the whole mystery; yet it was agreed between them, that it should be kept secret, and that the Child should as soon as born, be conveyed to a trusty Guardian to prevent obloquie.

The Queen, about six months after the Ceremony of the Wedding was over, being brought to bed of a Son, the Child named Arthur as it was before resolved, was conveyed by trusty hands to a Lady of good repute, named Marilda, Wife to Sir Ector, one of the Kings Knights, who brought him up in such learning as was meet for his years: When as his Father worn out with the continual toiles of War, and much distempred through the many wounds he had received, died, leaving him sole heir of his Dominions; who thereupon was proclaimed by most of the Nobility, and Crowned King, though some taking the advantage of his green years, rebelled, & raised divers Commotions; but he growing up, and getting the Reins of Government into his hands, did many great Exploits, as will in the series of this History appear.

### CHAP. II.

The Description of King *Arthur's* usual Accutermments, his Vision, and the Interpretation thereof: And how he constituted the Knights of the *Round Table*.

**K**ING Arthur by this time being grown up, became exceeding tall & strong, insomuch that he seemed more than man, and in many Tulls and Turnaments so well behaved himself, that none could stand before him: A Foyle he had which he called *Beaucephalus*, after the name of the Great Alexander's Foyle; and he in all Exploits proved the

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the best in the world: his Sword was of a large size, viz. sixe foot in length; and in breadth eight inches; cutting with two fearful edges, on which hung death and destruction: his Launce was eight cubits, and the head thereof formed of Hally Stael, weighing six pound; his Armour was of the highest proof, shining with Gems and burnished Gold: And the better to inure him to War and great Exploits, he frequently rode thus accutered; and often in places of greatest danger, glorying in nothing more than his strength and manly prowels, delighting in noz fancying none but such as were truly valiant, and feared not Death in any of his dreadful shapcs, but to such he was lavish to Excess; retaining no other for his Counsellor, but Merlyn the famous Necromancer, from whom, as from an Oracle, he received the certainty of future events, and at his request recreated him with strange and wonderful sights, the Representation of Magick; and amongst the rest, upon a great Plain before the Kings Palace at Cardigan, he raised a stately Tower, and round it a pleasant Garden adorned with Fruits and fragrant Flowers, Fish-ponds, Fountains, pleasant Bowers, and Umbriages, into which he led the King and all his Nobility, feeding them after a sumptuous manner, as they imagined; but he had no sooner re-conveyed them thence, but looking back, they saw all vanish in Thunder, Lightning, and a prodigious Earthquake, to their great amazeiment; yet knowing before it was but delusion, they rested somewhat more satisfied, yet could not but think of what had passed.

The day being spent in viewing this Piece of Recreation, and the King ruminating many things in his mind, at last laying him down upon his Couch, he fell into a slumber, and then dreamed that he was carried into a spacious Hall, in which stood a Table of great circumference, out of the middle of which grew an Oak and a Laurel, with Crowes, Scepters, Swords, and Ensigns hanging on them, and that they were guarded by many valiant Knights, high in prowels, and terrible to the whole World, which made him desirous to become their Associate; noz did he sooner demand it, but they joyfully received him, and placing him in a Chair of Ivory and Gold, made him their Chief, and gave him a Banner with a Lyon rampant portrayed thereon, and this Motto written, viz. EVER VICTORIOUS: upon which, the sound of Trumpets, noise of Drums, clattering of Arms,

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Shouts, and cries, saluted his Ears: And he supposed he beheld Armies in rout and slaughter scattered through the whole World, and that the Conquerors laid the Trophies at his feet, and with an universal shout saluted him Great Monarch of the Western World. At what time awaking, he found it but a Dream, yet revolving in his mind the strangeness of the fancy, the next morning he related to his Nobles, who assured him of happy presages, and advised him to make inquiry into the interpretation thereof; whereupon sending for his Necromantick Counsellor, he related it to him, who promised within a day to give him the signification of his Dream, which he did as followeth. viz. That by the Table was signified his Kingdom; by the Knights the Pillars and Strength thereof; by Oak and Laurel, strength, victory, and durance; the Crowns, Scepters, Swords, and Ensigns, the spoiles of the Nation he should be possess'd of; and the Scheme of War, the representations of the many dreadful Battels he should fight, wherein he should ever remain victorious; and the making him Chief, giving him the Standard, and placing him in a Chair of Ivory and Gold, denoted him deep in his Subjects love; and that no Treason should prosper against him. This interpretation highly pleased the King and raised his towering imaginations to such a pitch that he resolv'd to spread the terror of his Arms throughout the world; wherefore he made great preparation for all manner of Warlike provision, but above all of hardy and courageous Knights, inviting them from all parts to his Court, and for their better encouragement, caused a spacious Hall 300 Foot in length, and Twenty in breadth, to be built, with Glass Turrets on the top, ceiled with fret-work and Gold, wainscoted with Cedar, and paved with Marble, in the midst of which he placed a Round Table, at which 400 Knights might sit, and caused it daily to be furnished with great store of choice provision, for the entertainment of such men of War as would resort thither, and shortly after constituted the Order of the Round Table, allowing a yearly Pension of 100 Mark to such as were truly valiant and would involve themselves to attend his service when occasion required, making himself the Head or Sovereign of the Order, so that by this means the valiant men of the neighbouring Nations tendered their service to him, and were admitted into the noble Order, but not before they had been proved in some great Exploit.

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## CHAP. III.

How King *Arthur* warred with the Kings of *Mercia*, and the *East Angles*, who invaded his Dominions, slew a monstrous Gyant, and put their Armies to the rout. &c.

**T**he King being established in his Throne, and having thus far proceeded, caused a place to be made for jussing, where once every week his Knights exercised in Martial Order and jussed with each other, and to him that did best, the King would frequently send one rich present or other, himself being still a Spectator of those Exercises, and at all great Feasts present amongst them at Dinner, having a Chair like a Throne placed on that part of the Table that was towards the upper end of the Hall, but no Dulick suffer'd, except the Martial sounds of Drums, Trumpets, and Clarions, in which most of all our Heroick Prince delighted. And now being furnished with mighty men, that might compare to Davids worthies (if not exceed them) in dreadful Feats of Arms; he passionately desired to have an honourable occasion to try his and their valours, which was not long wanting: For the Mercian King of the Saxons, and the King of the East Angles presuming upon their strength broke into Cornwall, part of King *Arthurs* Dominions, and committed divers outrages, burning, plundering, ravishing, and slaughtering in such a dreadful manner, that the people (with such substance as they could convey) fled every where before them; the News of which roused our Lyon-like Prince, who taking with him his Guard of 400 Knights, and 8000 common Souldiers, the flower of his Dominions by swift Marches passed on to give War the meeting, whose approach the Enemy (being treble the number) little regarded, not doubting to give him the overthrow, trusting greatly to the force of one Cingeterox a monstrous Gyant, nine cubits high, six in circumference, and armed with a huge Battel-Axe and Coat of Mail; but the undaunted Prince, whom fear could not dismay, having animated his Souldiers and set them in Battel-Array, attended by his Knights, broke through the Ramparts, killing such as guarded the Camp, and setting upon the Infidels, soz so at that time they were, and cutting through the thickest of them made such slaughter that all the way he passed was strewd with dead bodies; yet on he pressed through lanes of death, his Heroick Cham-



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Champions following, as animated by the Martial deeds of their Renowned Leader; nor did they less annoy the Enemy, who by this time, taking the Alarm in all parts, came running to oppose them, and began to make some slaughter of his men, especially where the Gyant fought, which the King perceiving by the cry that arose, caused his Standard with the great Lyon to advance that way, bearing down all before him till he came to the place where he found Cingeterox and Ethwaldus the Mercian King bathing their Axes in the blood of his men, of which they had slain 300, when as King Arthur with a loud voice cried, Turn this way Infidels, spare the weak, and bend your force against the strong: upon which the Gyant starting on him, with a dreadful voice replied, Who art thou that comes to seek thy Death? I am a Souldier, said the King, and one that am come to fetch thy Head by way of reprimand for the mischiefs thou hast done in my Country. But you must get it first, said the Gyant. That shall not be long, said the King; and thereupon charged on the Monster so furiously with his Sword, that ere he could wield his Battell-Axe with a full stroke on his Helme, which made the fire spring from thence, he made him stagger three huge Paces and bend with his knee to the ground: then the Gyant (incensed) made at him and struck the King, so that the blow dazled him, and made his eyes swim, but soon recovering; he that had never been so used before, resolved revenge, and thereupon (after a full stroke) wheeling his dreadful Sword about, he struck the Monster on the Helme with such force, that cutting it through the Sword entered six inches, whereupon with a terrible groan he fell to the Earth, at what time the King stood on him and divided his Head from his Trunk, the which he delivered to his Esq; that bore his bow and quiver: Nor were the Knights of the Order idle, for Sir Lancelot had by this time grievously wounded the Mercian King, and taken him Prisoner; and Sir Tristram slain 7 Captains, besides 36 common Souldiers; so that the King of the East Angles seeing all go to wrack, and his men were disordered, caused the Retreat to be sounded, whereupon his Captains endeavoured to bring off their men, but they being in great consternation, and the Britains pressing on them, (fearful of death) fled in all parts, and left all the booty they had gotten to the Conquerors, who fiercely pursuing the flying Foe, made terrible slaughter, inasmuch as could not fly into Castles and places of strength, fell by the Sword, to the number of 20000. This



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This overthrow being noised abroad, brought a great fear upon all the Saxon Princes, so that the Mercians wholly submitted and sent a great ranfome for their King, who upon his swearing to become Tributary and Vassal to King *Arthur* was set at liberty. Nor were there any of their petty Kings that then possessed this Island, which they had divided into a Heptarchy, but sent their Ambassadors with great Presents to intreat a Peace, the which, upon their acknowledging him their Supreme Prince, and paying each 200 Marks, a brace of Geldings, a Faulcon, and a Grey-hound yearly, was accorded to. And thus flourished this Renowned King in the beginning of his Reign, but more dreadful and re-doubted were his future deeds, as by the sequel will appear.

### CHAP. IV.

How King *Arthur* passed into *Danemark*, conquered the Kingdom of *Norway*, overthrew *Burnamissa* the Danish King.

**T**he King having in a manner brought England to his subjection, resolved not to suffer the current of his Victory to be dained up with ease, took counsel with Merlyn and the most valiant of his Knights, what Enterprize was next to be undertaken, who advised him, That it was most for his Honour to revenge the injuries he had received by the Danes, who roaming about those Seas, had not only taken divers of his Ships, but (landing) had surprized some small Towns upon the Sea-Coast, and burnt them, carrying the Inhabitants into miserable Captivity, and by cruel tortures obliged them to offer Sacrifice to their Idols, that Kingdom being then unconquered. This motion pleased the King, whose restless spirit and desire of Glory made him impatient of ease; whereupon he caused a great Navy of Ships to be rigg'd in Milford Haven, and in all other Ports, and gave Order for the building Men of War and Gallies, so that in six months space he had a fleet of small and great Vessels that consisted of 300 saile, on which early in the Spring he imbarqued with 28000 choice Souldiers, and all manner warlike of provision; having by this time inrolled twenty new Knights, to supply the places of such as fell by the Sword, or dyed of divers diseases; and so with a fresh gale weighing Anchor, and with a fair wind arriving in the Baltique Ocean, entered the Straits, now guarded by the two famous Castles of Coronsburg and Elzeburg, the later standing on the Coast of Norway,

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and there brought such a fear on either shore, that the Inhabitants in all parts fled with what they could most conveniently carry, leaving the rest for a prey to the Brittaines, who under the conduct of their victorious King, enriched themselves with a great booty : when intamping before Nidrosia in Norway, summoned the City to yield, but there being a strong Garrison therein, they returned answer, That they kept the City for Burnamissa King of Danemark, and would in no wise yield it without his Order : whereupon the King commanded the assault to be made by 12000 men, under the leading of 44 Knights of the Order of the Round Table, who having their scaling Engine in a readines, on Easter-Eve marched to the wall, and with a shower of Arrows and Wild-fire drove the defendants thence ; when as Sir Ector, hearing the Royal Standard, mounted, and making great slaughter of such as opposed, cutting off Arms, Legs, and Helmed Heads, placed it on the chief Sullwark, which the rest seeing, on all sides strove to imitate him, so that within less than six houres the City was won, which the conquered perceiving, retired to the Market-place, and throwing down their Arms begged mercy, which the King generously granted, yet gave the spoile of the City to his Souldiers, not reserving any part to himself, which so lightened them, that (leaving a Garrison there) passed on to Bergen, which upon the first summons surrendred ; and by its Example all the remaining Cities and walled Towns did the like, so that the Kingdom of Norway was entirely at King Arthur's devotion : whereupon finding no more to conquer, he having received a supply of 5000 men to make up the number he thought, by reason he was forced to leave the like number in Garrison, imbarqued, and passing the Straits landed upon the Danish shore, filling all with terror and amazement, when as that King having gathered a huge Army, advanced to give him Battel, which did not a little rejoice King Arthur, who greatly desired to try his strength in War : when joyning, on the great Plain before Copen Hagen a dreadful Fight began, but Ulsaoz (who never declined our Heroick Prince) soon declared for the Brittaines, so that the Danish King finding the Battel swerthe, and that he could not stay his men longer from open flight, to robber their Name, sounded the Retreat ; whereupon they retiring in great confusion, K. Arthur and his Knights followed so furiously, that all the Plain was strewd with the bodies of the slain,

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slain; and so hotly they pressed on, that e'r three parts of the Army entered the City, the Gates were shut up, and a third part shut out, for fear the Britains should enter pell-mell with them, who were by the furious Souldier slain in the sight of their friends, though the compassionate King bid spare the sword.

### CHAP. V.

How King *Arthur* besieged *Copen-Hagen*; and how at the intreaty of *Geneura* the Sister of the *Danish* King, he hearkened to an Accord.

**T**he Danes thus overthrown, the King incamped before the City, resolving to carry it by force, and the next day prepared for the assault, resolving to march in the head of his Knights to win immortal fame by his planting his Standard upon the Wall with his own hands, or to lose his Life; nor could the persuasion of his Nobles make him decline it: but as he approached the Wall, the Gates opened, whereupon he supposed the foe intended to sally, but instead of armed men, there issued out a Troop of beautiful Ladies and in the front of them the beauteous *Geneura* Sister to *Burnamissa* the *Danish* King; whereat King *Arthur* much wondered, and commanding his men to stand in Battalia, with twelve Knights went to meet them, when as the Ladies approaching him, the fair and beauteous Princess fell at his feet, and bedewing the ground with tears, besought him to have compassion on her distressed Country; the King being moved at this unusual sight, in loving wise raised her in his Arms and had her be of good comfort, but the sorrowful Lady, whom tears made more lovely, refused all comfort unless he would grant her request, to which the King (overcome by compassion) consented, after a short pause if what she demanded might consist with his Honour; whereupon opening a Casket that one of her Ladies held, she first presented him with Jewels of great value set in Gold, and then intreated that an interview might be had between him and her Brother; to which the King readily consented, as already falling Loves pointed shafts pierce his high-protected Armour, and presenting the fair Princess with a Crown of Gold set with Pearls and Diamonds, which he had taken in the *Mercian* War; as likewise her Lady with Jewels of great price; he dismissed them, and caused a Royal Tent to be pitched about a furlong from the Vaunt-guard of his Army.

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## CHAP. VI.

How King *Arthur* had an Interview with *Burnamissa* the *Danish* King; and how a Peace was concluded between them upon the whole matter, being left to the Princess Award.

**H**ostilities ceasing, the *Danish* King with twenty of his chief Nobility came to King *Arthur's* Tent, and there in humble wise would have prostrated themselves, but the King would not permit it; but making them sit down according to their degree, entered into a discourse with them, relating at large the justness of his taking up Arms and demanding Restitution for the wrongs his Subjects had received, and for the mischiefs his Country had sustained; to which *Burnamissa* replied, That whatever had hapned in that nature, had been without his knowledge; but however knowing him to be a Prince of great Clemency, he would be well content to submit to what ever he should think fit: The King overcome by meekness of the Dane, finding a relenting in his breast, as generously offered to refer the whole matter to the beautiful Princess, and bound himself to stand to what Award she should make, which was joyfully accepted by *Burnamissa*, who expected before, that no less than his Kingdom of *Norway* would make satisfaction to the offended *Brittish* Monarch: Whereupon the Princess was sent for, who came, attended by divers Ladies of Honour, in most sumptuous attire, glittering in Gold and Gems, which were out-bied by her incomparable beauty; when making her approach, King *Arthur* arose from his Chair of State and saluted her; as likewise his Knights did her Ladies: Then *Burnamissa* made her acquainted with the pleasure of King *Arthur*, but she in modesty refused to be Arbitress in so weighty a matter, till the King pressed it, and desired her to do him so great an Honour; whereupon after some consideration she awarded, That her Brother should defray the whole Charge of the War, and restore all such ships as were found to appertain to any of King *Arthur's* Subjects, and that the Offenders being taken, should be delivered to the King to dispose of as he thought fit, and then the King to depart the Land, and withdraw his Garrisons. These Articles were highly approved on either part, and the Princess her wisdom admired: whereupon Commandment was given to proclaim them with beat of Drum and sound of Trumpet, and that from thenceforth all Hostility should cease.

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## CHAP. VII.

Of the great Joy conceived by the *Danes*; and how King *Arthur* falling in love with *Genura* the fair Princess, married her.

**P**lace being thus happily accorded, the *Danes* rung their Bells and made Bon-fires in every City, all the Nobility feasting their pay Neighbours and Tenants throughout the Kingdom; when as the Danish King causing a Royal Pavilion to be reared without the City; prepared a sumptuous Feast, to which he in humble wise invited the King and his Nobles, and so great was the entertainment, that the like had not before been known in that Kingdom.

But what pleased King *Arthur* more than all, was the sight of the fair Princess, with whom by this time he was most passionately in love: Nor did the feaver of his desire less afflict her, though she durst not raise her hopes so high; till at last the King (not long able to resist the Magick of her eyes) took the opportunity of breaking his mind to her, who humbly told him with a demure countenance, That she could not conceive her self worthy the thoughts of so great a Monarch, but if it pleased him to condescend so low, as to raise her to such dignity, she had no argument against his pleasure, if her Brother would consent. This pleasing answer overjoyed the King, inasmuch that sending for the Danish King, he desired to beg one favour of him; Nay, replied Burnamissa, your Majesty may command even what you please, since to your clemency I owe so much. Then said King *Arthur*,

'Tis this fair Pledge of lasting peace that I with low submission do request. If my Sister be contented, said the King, I am overjoyed at what I hear, and have long desired to be allyed unto so great a Prince, yet must not compell a free mind. You need not, (said the Princess, blushing like a Rosey Bloom that opens in June or July to the Morning-Sun) for I have already parted with that heart that needs would go, upon condition you consented. I do consent most willingly, replied the King; and thereupon taking King *Arthur* in his right hand, and the Princess in his left, he joyned their hands, and at the request of the former, Segbert the British Arch-Bishop married them, according to the Canons of the British Church, pronouncing many dreadful curses on whoever should attempt to untye the sacred Band. This known in the Camp and City, redoubled the joy, so that all night long whole loads of pinks blazed, inasmuch that the fires created a new day as soon as Sol was set; and so sumptuous was the Feast, which lasted



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lasted many days, that Rome in all her Glory could not exceed it ; the Martial seats (to win glory, and the love of the Ladies) were so many that I have not place here to relate them.

### CHAP. VIII.

How returning home King *Arthur* found his Country invaded by *Magor* King of *Ireland*, and how he vanquished him with slaughter.

**T**he King having been absent from his own Dominions for the space of six months, began to cast his eye homeward ; when having remitted *Burnamissa* the charges he was at, and only gave order his Subjects loss should be repaired, he with his fair Queen, whom the King loaded with rich presents, took leave of the Danish Court, and imbarquing with the whole Army, and divers of the Danish Nobility, who from their King had order to attend the Queen ; having a fair gale, on the ninth of October landed where they first imbarqued, and were received with universal joy ; whereupon the King coming to a Castle of his, near *Cardniff*, feasted the Danish Nobility in a most splendid manner. But whilst he remained there, he had notice, That *Magor* King of *Ireland*, who by his Ambassadors had courted the fair Genura, and been refused, was (to revenge it on his arrival) landed with a great Power in South-Wales ; whereupon the King comforting his Queen, who was greatly grieved that through her cause such sudden troubles should arise, passed on with his victorious Army, and gave him Battel near *Merionoth*, and utterly discomfited him, so that flying with his broken Army, and being every where assailed by the Country Peasants, who had laid the way for him, he scarcely escaped to his Ships with five Thousand out of thirty Thousand ; so that King *Arthur* (speedy as *Cæsar* in his victories) returned to his fair Queen with the Trophies of his conquered Enemies long before he was expected to have fought the Battel ; when sending four Thousand men under the leading of *Sir Lancelot* and divers other good Knights, they landed on the Isle of *Angle-Sea*, and drove thence the French that had for some time past, during the troubles of this Kingdom, settled themselves there.

### CHAP. IX.

How the King having recovered the Isle of *Angle-Sea* from the French, sailed with a great Power into *France*, to revenge the injury done to his Subjects, and overthrowing their Army, made them dearly purchase Peace.

**T**he Kings victories daily increasing, the terror of his name spread wide, and made the most re-doubted Monarch tremble, yet durst France



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France (then powerfull at Sea) Invade our Coast, and with fire and sword spoiled many Sea-Towns, carrying away great booty, as also the people, the men they made row in their Gallies, and the women to satiate their prodigious Lust: When as the crys of his suffering Subjects reaching his ear, where he was delighting himself with his Queen, he resolved once moze to forsake the Camp of Venus, and her soft delights, to court Fame and Glory in the Camp of Mars; whereupon having sent to Lotharius for Restitution, and receivd rather scorn than a satisfactory answer from that imperious King, he made great preparations for the War, and had at that time twelve Saile of Ships sent to his aid by his Brother of Danemark; when being in a readyness with an Army of 34000, he coasted the Country, and putting in to the Bay of Marfelles, with his shot of Arrows that flew like Hail, drove the defendants from the Shore, on which himself with his own Standard first leaped, and stood like an enraged Lyon, though a thousand shafts flew round his head, and many rebounded from his glittering shield; but long it was not ere the valiant Knights of the Order (imitating their Sovereign) thrust their ships on Land, and putting their Souldiers in Battel-aray, charged furiously upon the foremost Battailian of the Enemy, lead by the Duke De Vallois, so that being over-set, they retreated in great disorder, and finding no place to be received, broke the Ranks of their friends; when as the Duke De Nevers advanced with the right wing of Horse to their succour, but was so galled with the shot of Arrows, that the Horses mischiefed moze the Riders than did the Britains.

In this confusion the King drawing out 6000 of his choice men, charged upon the disordered Enemy with such courage that he pierced their main Battel, making lanes of death whereever he came, cutting off Arms, Heads, and Legs, insomuch that the Danish General Gironous imitating him, the French Souldiers (routed in all parts) left their Commanders and fled, insomuch that the slaughter of the Nobility was great, a fate ever incident to that Kingdom; nor would they trust to the weak wall of Marfelles, but flying to Lyons and Paris, left that part of the Country naked, to be possessed of the Britains.

The terror of this overthrow alaruming the French Court, and finding that brought home to 'em which they had used to others abroad, the people with Tears besought their King to appeale the Conqueror in time, and thereby prevent worse desolation, who considering his tottering Kingdom was at stake, sent four of his prime Lords to beg

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a weeks Cellation of Truce, to which King Arthur (whose aim was more at Glory and Renown than Advantage) accorded ; during which time, the King having raised a Million of crowns, sent them in divers Waggones, with other rich Presents, to purchase his Peace, and the departure of his new-come Guest, yet prevailed they not e're he had made his acknowledgment for the indignity put upon the Kings Ambassadors, and deliver the Town and Port of Marselies, to be possessed as a pledge of future Peace by the Britains for the space of 20 years to come, and upon pain of forfeiting it for ever, no Hostilities to be used by Land, nor depredations by Sea. These Articles accorded, the King hastened to his own Country with the greatest part of his Army, leaving only 2000 Souldiers in Marselies; and having amply rewarded the Danes, dismissed them.

### CHAP. X.

How Queen *Geneura* was delivered of a Son ; and of the Presents and Vows made by the *Saxon* Kings : As also a full description of the Knights of the *Round Table*.

**U**PON King Arthur's return he found to his unspeakable joy his fair *Queen* delivered of a lovely boy, who, by the advice of *Merylyn*, he named *Constantius*, whose *Victories* and great *Exploits* that Prophet fore-told, which after his Fathers death, he succeeding him in his Throne, exactly came to pass : And now the joy being great throughout the British Dominions, all the *Saxon* Kings came to King Arthur's Court, then removed to the then flourishing City of *Hereford* and made their Homage, complementing him highly on his Marriage, and the birth of his Son, presenting the *Queen* and *Royal* Infant with great Presents, as Jewels, Gold, and fragrant Spice of *Arabia*, promising for them and their Heirs to be obedient to the British Scepter, though before and after the Death of King Arthur they broke their vows, though to their great disadvantage : For the young Prince (almost as successful in War as his Father) grasped the Kingdoms of the *Mercians* and *East-Angles* with so hard a hand, that during his Life, they could not wrest them from him, but to our purpose. King Arthur being the chief Favourite of Fortune, and the eldest Son of Fame, began to enlarge the splendor of his Court, and increase the number of the Knights of the *Round Table*, in whom consisted his chief strength, for scarce was there any one of them, but durst encounter ten ordinary men hand to hand ; and as he increased them,

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them, to be enlarged their pensions, which drew the most valiant of all Nations to serve him, though none were admitted before they were tryed: The habit the ordinary wore, when without their Armour, was a Vest lined with Sables, and on the back of it a red Cross, and on their Thighs Cushes of highest proof; their Stockings were in the manner of Buskins, and their Shoes of Camels skin, the Hair appearing outward; on their Heads they wore Caps made of Seal-skins lined with Silk and Cotton; and about their neck Silk of divers colours; each of them in War carrying a double Faulchion, a Batrel-Axe, a Bow and Quiver, and a Lance being severally allowed a Clerk, or Armour-bearer, who attended them in all Battels.

### CHAP. XI.

How King *Arthur*, upon the Relation of a Hermit, what miseries the Christians suffered in the *Holy Land*, failed thither with a great Fleet; and how at his first arrival he took *Joppa*.

**A**Bout this time King *Arthur* finding nothing worthy of his Sword at home, and altogether impatient of ease, studied how he might employ it abroad, and whilst he was musing thereon, an Hermit in poor array came to the Court, and filled it at once with pity and desire of revenge upon the dismal Relation he made, which was, That the Turks and Sarazens had fallen upon Judea and Palestine with an Army of 100000 men. and made such slaughter of the Christians in those parts, that such as escaped were forced to fly into Rocks and Caves of the Earth, and there were either starved to death, or became a prey to wild Beasts: And that they had taken the Holy City of Jerusalem, after thirty days Siege, and put almost all the Christians they found therein to the sword, polluting the Temple and Holy Sepulchre with their Heathenish Worship: As also, that they impaled the Patriarch alive for refusing to worship Mahomet.

This story coming to the Kings ear, he could not refrain from shedding tears; when sending for the Hermit, in the presence of his Nobles, he most closely examined him to all particulars, and finding he delivered nothing but what (as he said) himself had been an eye-witness to; the King turning to his Lords, said, Hear you this, my Lords, shall we suffer the Enemies of our Lord and Saviour thus to triumph over the professors of his Name? to which they with one voice reply'd, That it was intollerable, and that they were ready to venture their Lives and Fortunes in that Holy War, and in his service: whereat the King highly commending their resolutions, vowed by the Passion

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of his blessed Lord, whom those Infidels desired and blasphemed, he would not take pleasure in any thing till he had faced those barbarous Nations, and tryed his Fortune to free the Holy City from its pollution; and thereupon he sent to all the neighbouring Princes for aid, resolving to set sail early in the Spring, it being now the middle of August: he likewise layed double Taxes upon his own Subjects, and demanded double Tribute of the Saxon Princes, who did not so willingly pay it at that time as was expected, by reason most of them were unconverted, and therefore secretly rejoiced at the prosperity of their brother Infidels: But however the King raised a great Host of money, and caused his Navy to be augmented; so that from France, Danemark, and other Ports of Spain, having received fifty ships of War, most of them Manned with Volunteers of those Nations, he with 200 sail, on board of which he had 50000 men, in the beginning of April waighed Anchor, and having a fair wind, coasting France and Spain, he joyned likewise divers other ships, who were ready to attend him, for the noise of this War had overspread all Christendome; when passing through the Straits into the Mediterranean Sea, he brought such a fear upon the Sea-towns, that the Infidels inhabiting them fled with their substance to the Mountains, into which the Christians entering, found yet some booty; but (desirous to pass on to Jerusalem) the King sailed to the Isle of Cyprus, then governed by one Emanuel a Christian, where having refreshed his Army, he again imbarqued, and sailing through that tract of Seas, arrived at Joppa, a famous Sea-Port, and the in-let of Palastine, which he found strongly fortified, as likewise Salmanezzer King of the Turks incamped with a Host of 100000 Turks, Jews, and Sarazens about six miles from thence; yet landing his men, he resolved to besiege the City, and by taking it, secure the Port; whereupon causing his Engineers to make divers batterings after the Roman fashion, which under the labour of the night (notwithstanding the besieged hurled down wild-fire and stones in great abundance) they set to the Walls on the North side, and by force of Corps battered with such fury, that they rent the Mammures in divers places, making the City tremble, which so alarum'd the Infidels, that they sallied 10000 strong upon the quarter guarded by the Earl of Merionoth, but coming to handy-strokes, were forced to retire 5000 less than they came, and the next morning, by King Arthurs express command, a furious assault was given on all parts, when as the Britains with their shot of Arrows beating the besieged from their

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their defences, mounted & planted the Kings Standard upon the wall, entering and killing the Infidels in great number, so that all the streets ran blood, till such time as the King (upon their throwing down their Arms, and on their knees begging mercy) bid spare the sword; when having expelled them the Town, he placed a Garrison of divers Nations therein, and so marched to joyn Battel with Salmanezar.

### CHAP. XII.

The overthrow of *Salmanezar*, and taking of *Jerusalem*, with what else happened remarkable on that occasion.

**T**he Infidels being greatly troubled at the loss of *Joppa*, desired their General to lead them to battel ere the Christians advanced any further, to which after many delays he consented, and on the sixteenth of July early in the morning advanced, in hopes to surprize the Christians, but finding them in battel-aray, he began to repent his rashness; but finding no means now to retire, unless with loss and disgrace, he divided his Army into three parts, the first (containing 40000 men,) he lead himself; the second (containing 36000,) he committed to his Brother *Albamazer*, a Giant of great stature, fierce and cruel; and the third (containing 24000,) to *Gouzeles*, Governour of *Jerusalem*: Nor did King *Arthur* delay to Marshal his Battel in the best manner, leading the first Battalian, consisting of 20000 choice Souldiers, and an hundred Knights of the Order for the guard of his person; the second battle (consisting of 10000,) he committed to *Batanius* Duke of *Cornwall*; the third battel (consisting of 10000,) he committed to *Sir Lancelot du Lake*; the fourth (consisting of the like number) was lead by *Frovonius* a noble Dane: When as both Armies (marching in this posture) came face to face, leaving a little space between, a monstrous Pagan stepping forth, demanded (ere the Charge was sounded) a man to fight him hand to hand; and that the combate should be for no less than the City of *Jerusalem*, or the departure of the Christians, if King *Arthur* durst agree to it: whereupon the King having sent to the Turk to know if he would stand to what his proud Champion propos'd, and finding him inclinable thereto, he thought no sword more fit than his own to chastise the daring; when (contrary to the mind of his Nobles) disguising himself in the Armour of one of his Knights, he stepped forth, and without much ceremony, charged him with such fury, that at one full blow he broke his Helme,



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and made him stagger six paces back, yet recovering his station, he the more enraged resolved to obliterate the disgrace that he had sustained, in the sight of his Prince and his whole Army, came on with double fury, foaming and storming for shame and anger to be so foiled; he smote the King with such force, that he loosed his Helme and made his eyes swim dazie; but he nothing daunted thereat, as the Giant was about to redouble his stroke, struck him so full on the right arm that his Battell-Axe fell to the Ground, when pursuing his stroke, he struck him as he bended to recover it on the neck, so that the sword entering caused a deep wound, out of which issued great quantity of blood, so that the King finding that through loss thereof he must needs faint, kept him off, as not thinking it safe to hazard too eagerly his person when the Conquest was already made; nor did his expectation fail; for the Giant finding his strength decay, like a Lamp, which at going out gives the greatest blaze, taking his Axe in both hands, smote upon the King with great fury, and with a full stroke upon the shoulder crushed his Armour, and much bruised him; at what time the King with undaunted courage gave him another wound on the left arm between the joints of his harness, and pursuing it with a thrust, pierced his Coat of Mail and high-pressed Cushies, so that the sword entering a foot into his bowels, he with a dismal groan fell to the Earth: whereupon the Pagans, contrary to the promise of their King, sounded the Charge, refusing to stand to what had been sworn, the which so enraged the Christian Souldiers, that redoubling their fury upon the signal given, they charged so furiously upon the Infidels, that the Battell wherein Abumazer fought was by King Arthur and his Squadron overborn, and pierced even to the middle, where Sir Gawen a Knight of the Order having killed the Standard-bearer, took the Standard even in the Infidel-King's sight, which made him advance with all his strength to recover it; but finding great resistance, after he had fought, and by words strove to animate his men, labouring in vain to stay their flight, he turned furiously upon his second Battel that was advancing; being hotly pursued by the Christians, and finding no place to retreat, he put them into great disorder; when as Sir Lancelot fetching a compass about, charged them in the flank on the right, and so gauged them with shots of Arrows, that after many were slain and wounded, and nothing but the cryes of the vanquished, and the shouts of the vanquishers, to be heard, the rest of King Arthur's Battels advancing, and charging them in the left, they (after making what



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what resistance they were able, and the loss of 40000 of their best Souldiers, their King being sore wounded and carried out of the bat-tel ) fell into disorder, and in great confusion fled, every one as he could shifting for himself, so that the Execution following with great fury, scarce 20000 escaped the sword.

The Victory thus happily gained, the Christians found such store of Treasure in the Camp, that it was wonderfull, the which the King sharing amongst his Souldiers, according as every one had deserved, and well refreshed his Army, sending the wounded of his party to Joppa, and buried the slain; he with Banners spread, marched towards Jerusalem, bringing a great fear on all the Cities in his way, most of which surrendred upon the first Summons; so that coming before the Holy City, whither the greatest part of the scattered Army was retired, he having summoned the Infidels to yield and save their lives, but receiving no answer, he battered it with his Rams, War-Wolfes, and other fearfull Engines, till a great part of the wall on the South side fell, upon which a furious assault was given, insomuch, that the Infidels having beaten their greatest strength to defend the breach, a great slaughter was made; yet the Christians resolving to carry the City, which then was but small, and very ravenous, pressed on with such violence, that the fearful Enemy being over-born, were every where slain; and the Christians entering, placed King Arthur's Standard upon the Bulwarks, which so dismayed the Infidels, that such as could, fled by the Posterns, and over the Brook Cedron, others hid themselves in Caves till the fury of the Souldiers were over, and such as could not do either, fell for the most part by the sword.

This famous City, being the first time thus taken by the Christians, a great number of miserable men and women were released out of Dungeons, who had for a long time been led with Bread of Affliction, half starved, and miserably used by the Infidels, for publicly owning the Name of the Lord, who, not far from thence, purchased them with his precious blood to their unspeakable joy.

### CHAP. XIII.

How upon notice that the Saxons invaded his Country, he returned; and of his strange Adventures.

**T**he King having thus performed his vow, repaired the Walls, built a strong Castle, and placed 7000 Souldiers therein, besides the Christians of Syria and Iudea, that daily flocked thither in great num-

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number ; he received notice, That the Saxon petty Kings in his absence had cast off their Allegiance, and being united, invaded his Country, insomuch, that his Dugan, Son, and those that he had left in charge with the Kingdom, being overthrowen in a pitched battel, were fled to the fastnesses of Snow down Mountains. Which News greatly perplexed the King ; so that having made his Offering at the Holy Sepulchre, and constituted Religious Men to keep it, he with three parts of the Army he brought, returned to his ships, the other part being either slain in the battel, perished by sickness, or left in the Garrison ; yet ere he could imbarque, 27000 Turks, Sarazens, and Egyptians, lying in ambush in a Wood for that purpose, fell upon the Rear of his Army, and cut off three or four hundred Britains and Danes ere the King with the Chiefs of his battel could draw up to their relief ; yet fatal was it to the Infidels ; for being unexpectedly inclosed by the Christians, who fetch'd a compass behind divers little Hills, they were almost all of them cut off.

This second overthrow given, the King quietly imbarqued his Souldiers, and sailing by divers Islands, destroyed the Garrisons possessed by the Infidels : When one day going on shore on the Promontory of Carthage, with a few of his Knights, he was set upon by four hundred Moors, who sallied out of Tunis ; but such was his and his Knights invincible Courage, that they drawing their Swords, slaughtered the Barbarians in such a manner, that they fled with great crys, taking them to be more than mortal ; whereupon the King causing 8000 men instantly to come on shore, besieged the City, and with wild-Fire burnt it about the Barbarians Ears, putting many of them to the sword : And then marching up farther into the Country, there came against them sixteen huge Lyons, bred in the Muritanian Forrest, with whom the King and twenty of his Knights encountering, killed twelve, and put the other four to flight.

### CHAP. XIV.

How upon King *Arthur's* return, the Saxon Kings layed down their Arms and sent great Presents, together with their Sons for Hostages.

**K**ING *Arthur*, impatient of stay, least whilst he conquered abroad his Country should suffer with great spoil, put again to Sea, and sailing homeward, met with a Fleet of Pyrates, who taking his ships for Merchants, set upon the foremost Squadron with loud shouts, casting great quantity of stones and wild-fire amongst them ; but coming  
to

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to grapple, they soon found their mistake, and then in vain endeavouring to fly, were miserably slaughtered, insomuch, that out of thirty but five escaped : In these ships many miserable Christian Captives, both men and women, were found, of which the King taking compassion, sent them into their respective Country, allowing them all things necessary for their maintenance during the space of a year, and so passed on towards his own Country.

The Kings approach being known to the Saxon Princes (who not long before had news that he was dead in the Holy Land, and thereby were animated to take up Arms) so discouraged them, that withdrawing their Forces, every one retired into his own Province, to study how to appease the victorious Monarch, whom they had justly incensed by their perfidious treachery ; and as soon as they had notice the King was landed and preparing his Forces to War against them, they sent their respective Deputies with rich Presents, to excuse their rash and unadvised actions, promising never for the future to transgress in the like nature ; yet the King being highly incensed, would at no cheaper a rate pass over their perfidious dealings, than at a personal acknowledgment, and the sum of 2000 Marks each ; As also be the better assured of them for the future, that each of them should send his son as an hostage ; and that those that had no sons, to send their nearest Kinsmen ; and over and above, to make reparation for such damages as could be by any of the Kings Subjects proved to be sustained by their unlawfull Arms. This being performed, a Peace ensued ; and the King dismissed his Auxiliaries with great Rewards.

### CHAP. XV.

How King Arthur built many Religious Houses, and gave great Cargases to the Poor : How he swore his Nobles and Knights to his son Constantius, and then dyed.

**K**ING Arthur now having leisure to repose in Peace, and think on his many wonderfull deliberances, resolved to apply his mind to deeds of Piety ; and thereupon caused many Monastries and Religious Houses to be built, giving yearly maintenance to divers poor people, but especially to such as had lived in splendour, and were fallen to decay : And daily he visited the sick, giving them Christian comfort : And using his utmost endeavour to cherish Learning and Arts, to which end at his proper charge he built likewise many Schools and Colledges, giving

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giving himself wholly up to the study of the seven Liberal Sciences; and so well profited he therein, that he became the greatest Master therein of his Age: But most of all, he fixed his thoughts upon his later end, and with Solomon was frequently heard to say, All Worldly things were but Vanity and Vexation of Spirit; and that on Earth no real nor substantial joys were to be found: When in the 60 year of his Age, and 49 year of his Reign, falling sick, and by the opinions of his Physicians not likely to recover, he sent for all his Nobles and the Knights of the Order, and he caused them to swear Fealty to his Son, comforting them in the best wise; and thereupon finding himself decay, after divers pious Expressions, & Prayers, exhorting his Nobles to be careful of securing his Son in his Throne, and having great respect to his Queen, he gave up the Ghost, to the great grief of his Subjects, but more of his fair Queen who took it so grievously, that soon after falling into a Fever, she dyed; and was buried with him in a Monastery, built by him at Monmouth; whose Tomb (richly adorned) continued visible till the Dissolution of the Fabrick in the time of Henry the Eighth.

And thus (kind Reader) I've reviv'd the fame  
Of Him who well deserves a glorious Name;  
Hoping that time henceforth shall not destroy  
What here I build to Arthur's Memory.

F I N I S.

